

Cloak-and-Dagger Professors

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AMERICA'S Central Intelligence Agency has come in for some very scathing criticism and exposure. Several publications, including *Ramparts* magazine, the *New York Times* and *Newsweek*, have carried documented surveys revealing some of the seamy aspects of U.S. intelligence operations.

Why this attack on the powerful CIA? One of the reasons is its succession of reverses, in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic and other parts of the world. Another, suggested by the U.S. press, is the rivalry between America's intelligence outfits, of which there are several. And still another is the rivalry between the powerful monopoly groups for control of the CIA. This battle flared up with the appointment of the new CIA chief, William Raborn, a Texan.

But whatever the reasons for the present press campaign, the facts it has brought to light are worth considering. For one thing, the revelations concern CIA activities within the United States, though it is supposed to function only outside the United States. The CIA has ignored that and maintains branch offices in thirty cities. Their job is to recruit schoolteachers, businessmen, students, or just ordinary tourists. And through them the CIA contacts other institutions, newspapers, business firms, research institutes, universities.

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This little-known aspect of CIA activity was catapulted into the public vision with the appearance of the April issue of *Ramparts*.

Ramparts, founded in 1962 by Edward Keating and published in San Francisco in only 2,500 copies, was little known to the American reader. The CIA exposures raised its circulation to 50,000.

Last summer it published an article about the Vietnam lobby in Washington. In February, it had an article by Donald Duncan, Special Forces Master Sergeant, about American atrocities in South Vietnam. The article caused quite a stir. The 12 pages in the April issue exposing CIA contacts with Michigan University caused a full-dress sensation.

These are the facts, as given by *Ramparts*. From 1955 to 1959 Michigan University served as a "front" for the CIA. Its agents were put on the University staff, some, in fact, were made faculty members. They were supposed to be working on the Vietnam aid programme, actually they were engaged in espionage and subversion.

Most accounts of the Vietnam war start with 1954, when Ngo Dinh Diem returned to Saigon after 17 years in exile. With Washington's support he became Prime Minister in the Bao Dai government. But how

this political adventurer was taken up by Washington and why, remained more or less a mystery. *Ramparts* now tells the story.

And the story goes back to 1930, when the French were still desperately fighting to hold on to Vietnam. One evening a Michigan University scientist, Wesley Fishel, met Diem in a Tokyo teahouse. Diem had quarrelled with his French masters and was looking about for a powerful backer to help him return to Vietnam. The Americans were looking about for a pliant tool to further their own aims in Southeast Asia. And Diem, if anything, was pliant. A rabid anti-Communist and a rabid hater of the French, an exile, he was just the thing the CIA needed for its "man in Vietnam." Diem was invited to the United States.

Officially, he was the guest of Michigan University in Ann Arbor. Writes *Ramparts*: "On the Michigan State campus, Diem found kinship and support among both faculty and administration—a relationship which later developed into the university's extensive aid project to Diem's government, where a team of some 20 professors did everything from drafting his budgets to training his secret police."

And it was this team of Michigan University professors, led by Fishel, that brought Diem to the notice of Washington. They put him into contact with Cardinal Spellman and

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